

# OPERATION TOMORROW





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## *Operation Tomorrow*

*The Missouri Corporation for Science and Technology adopted the slogan "Operation Tomorrow" to emphasize its goal of promoting the state's future economic growth through development of science and technology.*



## ***Facts about Missouri Corporation for Science and Technology***

### ***History***

The Corporation was created by the Missouri Legislature in 1983. The Legislature authorized Governor Christopher S. Bond to establish a private not-for-profit corporation to be governed by an 18-member board of business, labor, education and public representatives.

### ***Purpose***

The exclusive purpose of the Corporation is to contribute to the strengthening of Missouri's economy through the development of science and technology. To carry out this purpose it may: formulate ways to take advantage of scientific and technological opportunities that impact the Missouri economy; facilitate private financial investment in these opportunities; encourage university/industry cooperation in pursuing these opportunities; encourage scientific education to support these opportunities; and, provide financial assistance.

### ***Programs***

Four innovation centers have been funded through the Corporation. The innovation centers are located in Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla and St. Louis. The centers will encourage and assist start-up of high-tech businesses.

A Technical Idea Evaluation (TIE) program has been established by the Corporation to provide private inventors and businesses an early objective evaluation of their technical idea. This computerized evaluation is patterned after the one developed by the University of Oregon with funding of \$1 million from the National Science Foundation. If, after evaluation, the idea is considered to have potential it will be referred to the innovation centers with the approval of the inventor.

A Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) assistance program has been developed to encourage Missouri inventors and small businesses to take advantage of this significant federal program. The SBIR Program, passed in 1982, is designed to make available more of federal Research and Development funds to small businesses. It is estimated that as much as \$1 billion will have been committed by 1987. Efforts include organizing conferences in the state, facilitating cooperation of university researchers to assist in the development of quality proposals and developing informational systems to keep Missouri small businesses current on each of the 12 federal agencies' programs.

Other programs are being developed to encourage university/industry cooperative research, make available risk capital in Missouri, provide high technology training programs, and make Missouri citizens aware of the potential impact of science and technology on the Missouri economy.

### ***Funding***

The State of Missouri has taken the role of "seeding" the start-up of the Corporation and the innovation centers. It is expected that private support will provide an ever-increasing role for the Corporation and various supporting infrastructure for high technology economical development, i.e., financing, facilities, business assistance.



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